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Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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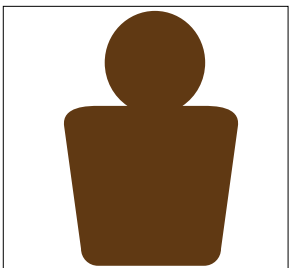
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Pride Center celebrates high school, university students

Lavender Graduation shines spotlight on LGBT graduates

By Jaclyn Archer

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Singing, poetry, spoken word and a celebrity guest speaker — these were all elements of this year's annual Lavender Graduation, held May 1 in Showalter Auditorium.

"It's a celebration that we do every year to support LGBT and ally students," said Sandra Williams, EWU Pride Center coordinator. "It's my favorite thing that I do every year. ... I never make it through without crying."

EWU's Lavender Graduation, hosted by the pride center, is part of a tradition of similar ceremonies designed to celebrate the achievements of high school and college graduates who have shared similar struggles.

According to Campus Pride, a national organization created to promote LGBT support services on college campuses around the United States, the Lavender Graduation derives its color theme from a combination of the pink triangle gay men were forced to wear in the concentration camps and the black triangle which designated lesbians as political prisoners in Nazi Germany. LGBT activists combined these symbols to create a symbol of pride.

EWU's Lavender Graduation ceremony honored allies as well as LGBT students. "Allies are a large part of the reason why there's a center," said Williams. "Often it's allies who step up and take the heat for

LGBT people who aren't safe to be out. That's something that should be honored. ... I would say half the folks who come in here are allies. It's a joint thing."

In keeping with this joint mindset, EWU's Lavender Graduation routinely includes an ally nomination ceremony, during which Lavender graduates are given the chance to nominate an individual who was a personal ally to them throughout their experience, thus helping them to achieve the scholastic goals they now celebrate.

This year, the Lavender Graduation keynote speaker was Emmy Award winning actor and producer Crystal Chappell. She is well known for playing Olivia Spencer, a mother who falls in love with another woman in "Guiding Light." She subsequently produced and acted in several web series featuring openly gay and lesbian characters and has continued to be an outspoken LGBT ally.

"This woman took a lot of heat for the stance she took in favor of the LGBT community," said Williams.

Of course, the primary spotlight is on the Lavender graduates. The ceremony, which included LGBT students from the local high school, community college and EWU, has grown from 10 to 25 graduates in the last five years.

"For me, it's an event that I can be recognized as part of a minority group for the achievements I've made," said Sierra Vanderhoogt, a Lavender graduate who has worked at the Pride Center for two years.

GRADUATION-PAGE 5



Photo by Sam Sargeant

Vanessa Moss (center) was nominated for the Lavender Ally Award on May 1 at the Lavender Graduation.

Forgotten faucets flood facility

By Katie Dunn

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Like an April shower, water dripped from the ceiling right onto lab equipment.

Science building physics research lab room 165, along with three rooms in the biology department, flooded with water on April 26 after three sinks in a biology anatomy and physiology lab were accidentally left running during a scheduled chlorine flush of the lab water system.

The science department requested flushing the water because a tiger fish experiment was not producing desired results, which they suspected was caused by something in the water.

Water and plumbing maintenance added chlorine to the lab water system, then turned on all the faucets. Once they could smell the chlorine they let it sit for two hours, which they call cooking, before they came back to flush all the chlorine out.

"Well, it was just a miscommunication," said plumbing supervisor Jim Butler. "We had three of us running around the building turning stuff on, flushing it out, turning it off and on during the day, and somehow that one [room] got forgotten. This was an accident. Stuff happens, as they say."

The plumbing fixtures have a p-trap, the gooseneck pipe easily seen under most sinks, which collects debris and prevents sewer gases from coming back into the building.



Photo by Sam Sargeant

Room 165 in the science building was the first room to be discovered with damage.

The style of p-trap in the science labs is known as a jar trap. The water drops into a jar-like container to collect solids, and then the water goes to the drain system.

According to Butler, their best guess is that the jar traps in the sinks got plugged, which caused the water to amass and spill over during the hour they were running.

Jonathan Barnes, a senior physics major who was grading papers at the time, was alerted to the situation by a man who claimed he saw water rushing into one of the rooms.

Barnes confirmed what the man said and was able to find physics

professor Dr. Robert Routsalainen who had keys.

"We unlocked the door to 165, the one where we could hear the water rushing, turned on the light and it was literally raining in there," said Barnes. "Ceiling tiles were on the floor and small puddles were accumulating. It was just a disaster."

Routsalainen called and got the water turned off, but the adjacent rooms already suffered some water damage.

SCIENCE-PAGE 2

Football honored by Big Sky

By Elohino Theodore

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Eastern's 2010-2011 football championship win was chosen as the fifth best moment on Big Sky's all-time list.

"It's an honor, with the history of this conference and other teams winning national titles," head football coach Beau Baldwin said. "To be ranked anywhere, let alone No. 5 all time, it's special, and I think it'll mean more and more as the years go on."

Former player and current wide receivers coach Nicholas Edwards, who was on that 2010 championship team still had fond memories. "It feels awesome," Edwards said. "That year was a great run for us; to be able to cap it off with a national championship was huge for us, especially for this university going forward."

During their championship season, the Eagles went 7-1 in the Big Sky Conference and finished 9-2 for their overall record. The Eagles were seeded at No. 5 in the 2010 FCS playoffs where they faced Southeast Missouri State in the first round. Eastern won the game 37-17.

For their next challenge in the playoffs, the Eagles faced North Dakota State and beat the Bison 38-31 due to a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell to wide receiver Tyler Hart in overtime.

Edwards had a special moment of the season in that particular game and stored it in his memory. "One of my favorite moments was when J.C. Sherritt stripped the ball at the two-yard line when we were in overtime with North Dakota State," Edwards said. "That was probably one of the most defining moments that I had as a player. That was a huge game for us to be able to get over the hump and get to the semifinals."

North Dakota State's loss advanced the Eagles to play at home against Villanova University in the FCS semifinals. Eastern appeared in the semifinals for the first time since 1997. The Eagles forced six turnovers and beat Villanova 41-31 to advance to the championship game against Delaware.

The Eagles beat the Blue Hens 20-19 on Jan. 7, 2011 in Frisco, Texas, to win their first national title. Eastern rallied from a 19-0 deficit during the middle of the third quarter to make their comeback.

Baldwin reflected back on the championship season and some of moments that stood out to him.

"It was definitely one of those years, and we may never have a year like this," Baldwin said. "The thing that stands out to me is just how many close games we played in and found ways to win every one of them."

BIG SKY-PAGE 9



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The CAPS student workshop series continues on May 8 with a discussion of tips for interview success. The workshop will be in PUB room 261 from noon to 1 p.m. and will have free pizza.

May 9 at 7 p.m. is EWU Night at the Spokane Shock game in the Spokane Arena. A \$15 ticket will get you an upper level section seat, a hot dog and a soda. For \$20, you can get a lower level

section seat, a hot dog and a soda. Tickets will be held at will call and can be purchased at www.alumni.ewu.edu/ewushock.

The 17th annual Symposium is May 13-14 in Showalter Hall. Information on specific presentations and times can be found at www.ewu.edu/symposium.

May 20-23 is Diversity Week at Eastern, with events occurring each day. For more information on events and times, check out www.ewu.edu/diversity.

Summer quarter enrollment numbers decline

Records show an enrollment drop of 600 in the last two years

By **Wilson Criscione**
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They ride the bus in and out of campus, they gaze at students walking to class and they greet readers of this paper.

EWU summer quarter advertisements are everywhere.

After student enrollment for summer quarter took a noticeable dip in 2013, the university examined how to raise awareness and improve the overall summer experience for students. This meant renovating the marketing strategy, creating more online courses and organizing course schedules that are more convenient to students.

According to EWU records, the summer unduplicated head-count for 2013 was 3,152. This was down from the 2012 count of 3,547 and the previous two years where the count was over 3,700.

Ben Meredith, executive director of EWU’s extended campus, took over summer quarter duties this school year. Meredith has a background in educational and learning technologies, and he did a full analysis trying to figure out how to make summer quarter more accommodating to students and how to raise awareness.

“We looked at it from top to bottom and asked ourselves: Are we, as a university, providing what the students need?” Meredith said.

When doing his “customer analysis,” he found that the enrollment for online courses was higher than it had been in summer quarter, even though total enrollment numbers were low.

Meredith also heard student feedback regarding the scheduling issues they experienced in summer. He tried to make himself a course schedule using courses from last summer, and said it was impossible even for him to make a schedule without any conflicts.

Summer quarter can also be pricey. Linda Kieffer, vice provost, said that even though students would like to graduate sooner, many cannot afford to go to school in the summer.

Nicole Wright, loan supervisor in the financial aid and scholarship

office, said summer generally is more expensive than other quarters because students pay for every credit.

“During the school year, 10 to 18 credits is all the same price. In the summer, you pay for every single credit. So there’s a substantial difference between taking 12 credits and 18 credits, pricewise,” Wright said.

Obtaining financial aid is more difficult in the summer. EWU treats summer quarter as the last quarter of the year, so whatever financial aid students earn is leftover from the school year.

For example, if a student was awarded a \$3,000 loan for fall, winter and spring quarters and that was the maximum amount that student could have for the year, that student would not earn more financial aid for summer quarter. However, they could choose to reduce their earnings over the school year to \$2,000, so they have \$1,000 for summer.

Wright said that even if students do earn financial aid, they often do not see any money until later in the quarter. This is because students must be taking at least six credits, the minimum amount, at the beginning of the quarter to receive their award.

“With the way the class structures are set up, to get disbursement at the beginning of the quarter, you need to be in six credits that start June 23,” Wright said. “So if you have a class that starts June 23, then another in July, you won’t get money until the second class starts in July.”

Meredith said the university cannot control how federal money is handed out. What he is working on is improving the summer experience for students and informing them of the opportunity.

He imposed a block schedule so students can easily take three or more classes. In response to the high number of online students last year, the school increased the number of online classes. Many classes were moved to earlier in the week after the analysis showed lower enrollment for classes beginning after Wednesday.



Graphic by Vania Tauvela

“We think that we are able to provide students with more of an opportunity to stay right here at EWU even if they are not in Cheney,” Meredith said.

The most frequent complaint Meredith heard was students being frustrated that classes would cancel right before the quarter started. Students then had to find another class in order to fulfill the six minimum credits. He vowed this year to lock in the summer schedule so students do not have to scramble at the last minute.

Last year, Meredith said the university did not raise enough awareness for summer.

“We have spent more on the marketing [this year], although I will say that we grossly under-spent last year,” Meredith said.

So far, all that marketing around campus has worked. As of April 30, 42 percent of the total enrollment from last year had already enrolled for 2014 summer quarter, which is high considering the usual number of late enrollees.

Meredith is reluctant to refer to students as customers, but could not help himself when talking about the ways EWU adjusted summer quarter in order to accommodate students. The school analyzed data, looked for correlations and patterns and made decisions based off of their findings.

“We need to provide the services in the manner which you as the student need it,” Meredith said. “We really are looking to make sure that we are providing the students with the experiences that they need.”

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SCIENCE: CONTINUED FROM FRONT

One classroom had water seeping into the wall and another had water coming through the ceiling.

Dr. Robin McRae, professor of chemistry, was alerted about the situation at 2:30 p.m.

It appeared that the water came down from the expansion crease left behind when the EWU Science Building was extended.

“It was a researcher’s worst nightmare,” said Barnes.

Maintenance was already

on the scene cleaning up when McRae arrived. Students, like Barnes and senior chemistry student Jake Rosman, were also helping out.

“One of the maintenance workers did a fantastic job cleaning up the water and stuff off the floor,” said McRae.

By Sunday night, room 165’s floor was all clean, leaving only the counters in disarray.

While the room had not been used in quite some time, it still housed valuable equipment. Among them was assistant professor Dr. Tony Masiello’s new spec-

trometer that he acquired last winter.

“I came in and [the spectrometer] was all wet and had soggy ceiling tile remnants on it,” said McRae. “At least half a dozen [tiles] fell down on an optics table, and boxes and parts were filled with water. It was a huge mess.”

McRae and Masiello are waiting for the equipment to dry before testing them.

“Some of it may require extended testing,” said McRae. “That is, the equipment may turn on and function, but it will take awhile to determine whether it is functioning properly.”

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Heartbleed Bug infects Internet security

By Aaron Bocook
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Putting information on the Internet is risky.

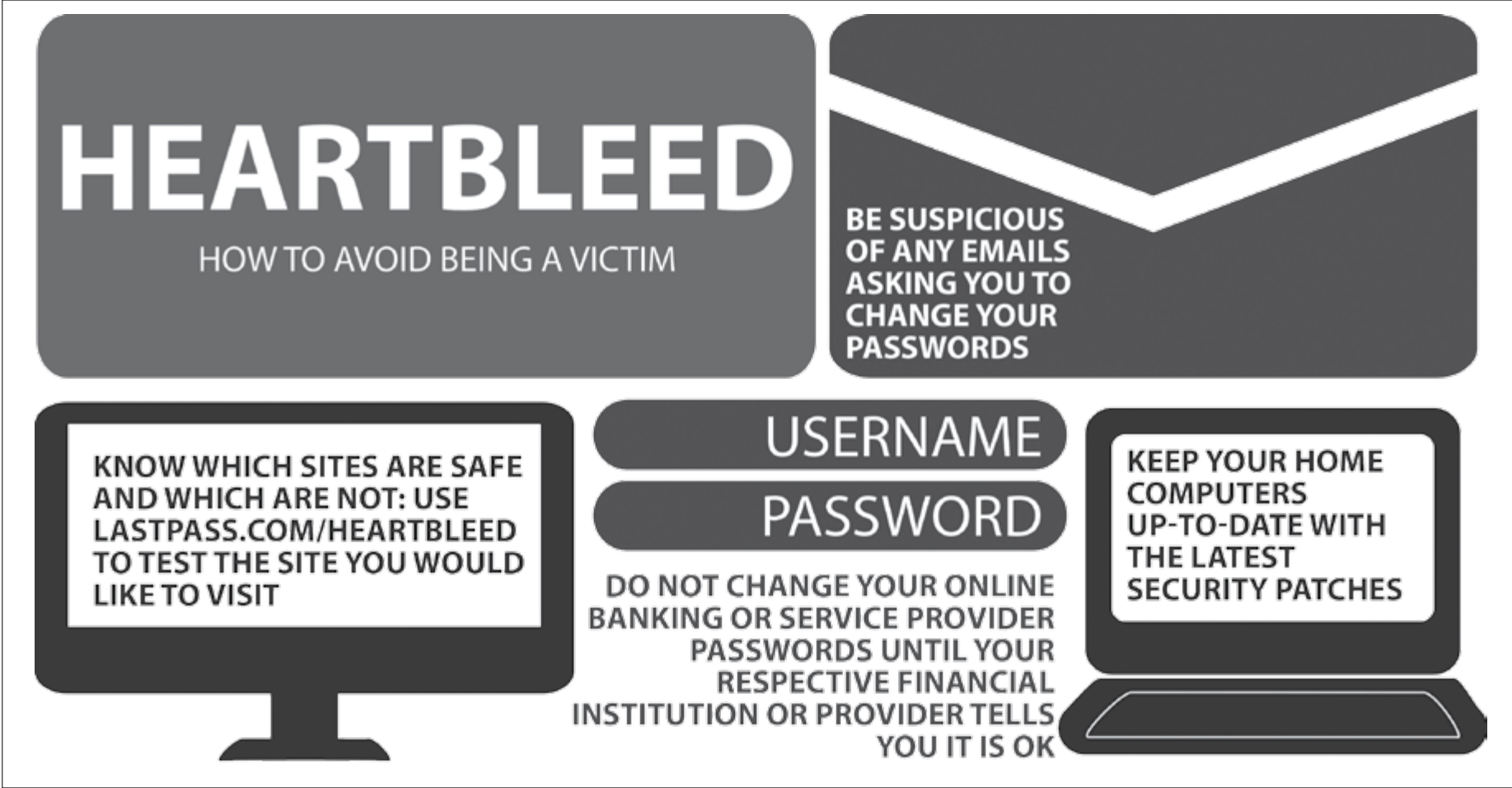
Recently, a vulnerability called the Heartbleed Bug was discovered in a common cryptographic library called OpenSSL, which, according to EWU security engineer Colin Turnbull, is used by about two-thirds of websites out there. The vulnerability could leave information, which is protected under normal conditions, exposed.

“It’s a pretty significant exposure,” Turnbull said. “The vulnerability itself is called a buffer over-read vulnerability, which could essentially allow an attacker to grab small chunks of memory from the device they are connected to.”

Turnbull said if this happens repeatedly, enough information in memory could be collected that could lead to exposure of passwords and other encrypted data.

Dr. Carol Taylor, professor of computer science at Eastern, said Heartbleed is simply a new example of a flaw in a system that could potentially expose sensitive online information but may not be as unique as the hype suggests.

“Those kinds of things come up every so often,” Taylor said. “Everybody is going along using [Open]SSL, or any kind of cryptography, or any of the programs that you normally use, and then somebody actually spends the time to look at it in depth. And guess what, It’s not so secure anymore. There’s a



Graphic by Kyle Pearson

hole in it. And that just happens over and over and over again.”

The Heartbleed Bug was officially disclosed April 7, which coincided with the release of a fixed version of OpenSSL. Turnbull said he was just leaving work when the Eastern Information Technology department received the disclosure and started checking to see if any of the systems on campus were vulnerable.

“We did find systems that were vulnerable to it,” Turnbull said. “These

weren’t enterprise-wide systems. Systems like Eaglenet or email weren’t vulnerable to it.”

Turnbull said the university uses load balancers in front of almost all of its websites that keep a potential attacker from having direct access to the server.

In other words, Eastern protected students before the flaw was even discovered.

In response to the Heartbleed Bug, the IT department sent out a campus-wide email to give faculty, staff and students information they needed to keep them-

selves safe, including a link to find which sites had already fixed the bug.

“We addressed the vulnerable servers that we did find,” Turnbull said. “Those all were addressed. Most of those were addressed within 24 hours of the initial disclosure of the vulnerability. Nothing has been compromised.”

Even though the system has been secured, Turnbull said that does not mean there is nothing to worry about. He said about 1,100 different alerts indicating that people

are probing for this particular vulnerability have been found through the intrusion detection system used by Eastern’s IT department, but none of them indicate any successful responses.

“They are constantly scanning,” Turnbull said. “We see scanning on a daily basis for this. But it’s all unsuccessful. The scans can come from researchers, or they can come from legitimate attackers. We see the IP addresses associated with the scanning, but it’s

tough to identify who is really behind it.”

Taylor said since she has not had the chance to look at the Heartbleed Bug in depth, she made an assignment for her students to research a current infection on the Internet and hopes that a few of them will come back with a lot of information about the vulnerability.

“I don’t think [Heartbleed] will put students at any more risk than they are at now,” Taylor said, “The smart thing to do is to watch your data.”

Security cameras upgraded in Patterson

By Aaron Bocook
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Students taking classes in the newly renovated Patterson Hall may have noticed something they have not seen before on campus.

Just inside each of Patterson’s four entrances at about waist level, small black orb-style cameras are constantly recording.

Jim Moeller, Eastern’s senior project manager in charge of the Patterson renovation, said he was asked to put the cameras in the building.

“The security cameras in Patterson are a part of a larger administrative issue,” Moeller said. “It was an [Office of Information Technology] install, and the cameras are monitored by campus police.

“We don’t monitor them per se,” said Tim Walters, chief of campus police and director of campus safety. “People have the impression that we’ve got a wall of flat screens, but no.

“The only time we utilize them is if there’s a crime. For example, we had some furniture stolen out

of there right after they opened it, so we were able to see people taking the furniture out of the building and solve a crime with that.”

Walters said the style of camera is new, and costs between \$200-\$300, but is operated through systems already in place at Eastern with software that is continually updated.

According to Walters, EWU is simply trying to keep up with the systems found in universities around the country in regards to campus security and student safety.

“Patterson cameras are just a more visible version of what is already in place and updated version. We’re trying to see what works best when we build new buildings or when we upgrade our current buildings on campus,” Walters said. “So we look at best practice and what works best for identifying suspects.”

The new cameras follow the same guidelines as older systems at Eastern, Walters said. The system cannot be used for administrative purposes, such as monitoring staff and faculty,

and the footage is only retrieved in relation to a crime. The footage is stored on a hard drive, and the archives are recycled about every 30 days.

Perhaps the most important purpose of the cameras is to make sure everyone is out of the building in case of emergency.

“In Patterson, if we had a fire, there are points where disabled people have to go to for collection points,” Walters said. “I can bring the cameras up in the collection points and make sure everybody is taken care of and out of the building. If we have a person on the third floor at one of the collection points, we can look from camera ‘A’ to camera ‘Z’ — it helps us as far as an extra set of eyes.”

After the boxes containing the cameras were placed by the doors and the wiring schematics were delivered to the site, Moeller’s job was done.

But, as buildings like the PUB are renovated, and as new buildings are erected, Walters said students can expect to see more orb-style cameras like the ones found in Patterson Hall. They have already been installed in the entrances of the new residence hall and are planned to be installed in other critical high-theft points like the URC.

“They are there for safety purposes,” Walters said. “Not just students but overall campus safety.”



Photo by Karissa Berg

The security cameras have been updated to prevent criminal activity in Patterson.

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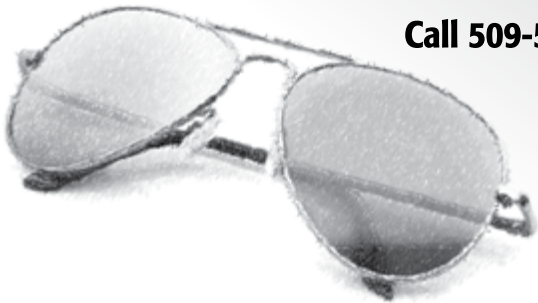
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Conference workshops explain unfairness in justice system

By Fetlew Gebreziabher
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Did you know that students of color make up 70 percent of school arrests and referrals?

This is one of the issues that will be discussed at the first ever Black-Brown conference and brunch May 17 and 18 hosted by M.E.Ch.A. de EWU and the Black Student Union.

Jackie Vaughn, the M.E.Ch.A. political co-chair, was inspired to bring the conference to EWU after reading about a Black-Brown Summit held in Seattle for colored men. Being biracial, Vaughn understands and sees firsthand how both communities are affected.

"I thought the content that they had was great, but I've also been thinking how best can I help to educate my peers about the oppression that the people of color go through," Vaughn said. "I feel that often, we're somewhat aware of oppression but we're not specifically aware of how it's designed in the U.S. system to specifically oppress people of color. In our race and culture classes, that's exactly what we look at. The power and privilege in institutional and structural racism."

The conference will host interactive workshops that deal with racial inequalities in the educational and criminal justice system, featuring organizations such as the Smart Justice Campaign and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. There will be a screening of "Race: The Power of an Illusion" showing how race and racism are viewed in society.

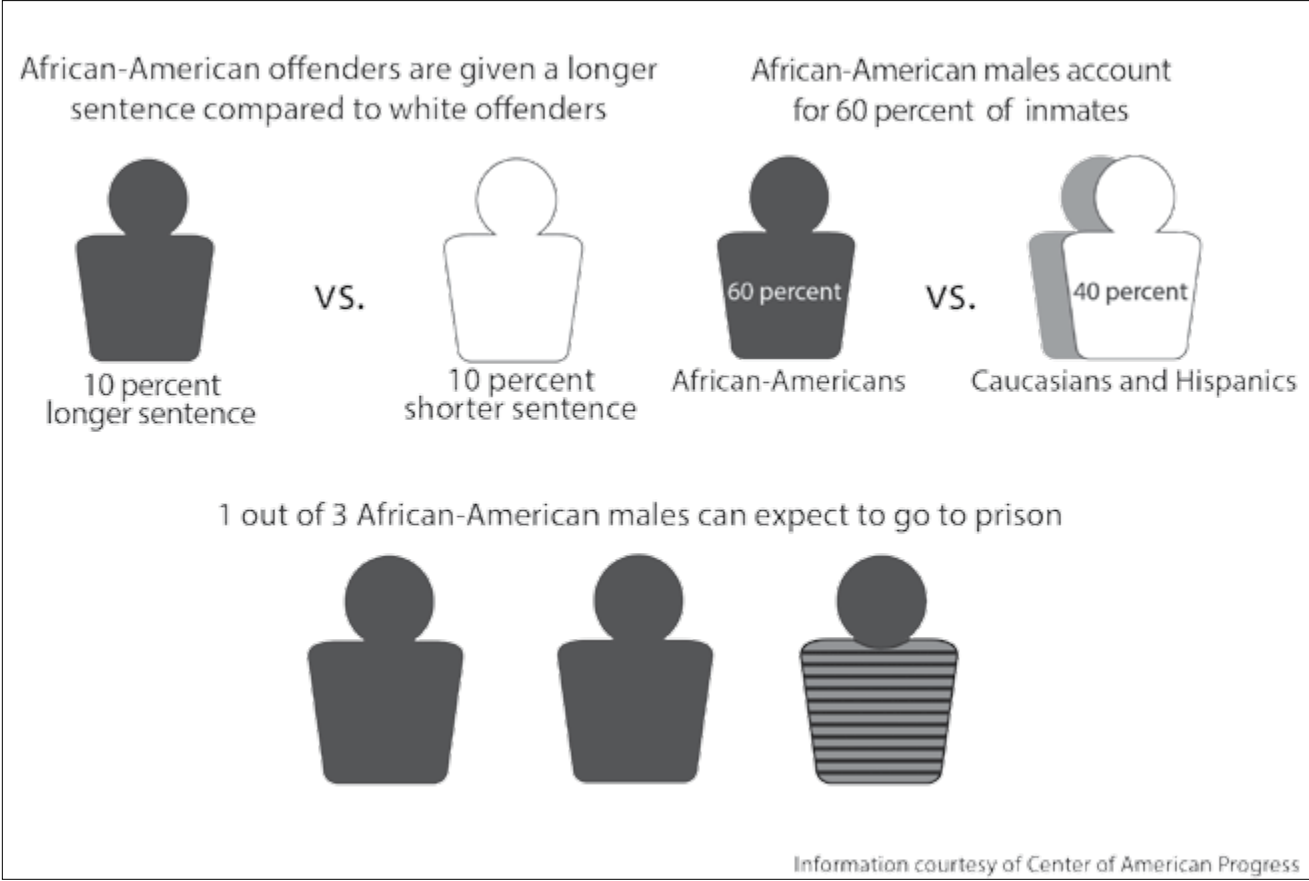
"The Smart Justice Campaign looks for alternatives to incarceration, and they specifically look at groups who are marginalized, who are underrepresented and how they are disproportionately affected by our criminal justice system. The workshops are going to be facilitated by people who actually do this type of work to eliminate racism in these specific fields," Vaughn said.

Smart Justice Campaign organizer Angela Webster will be bringing workshops called, "Hate the Game, Not the Player" and "Escape From the System" that will show students the imbalance of the criminal justice system.

"The point of this workshop ultimately is to highlight how unfairness tends to manifest itself in the current criminal justice system," Webster said. "In practice, many citizens have a tendency to unsympathetically judge those who are struggling to navigate criminal justice system or stay out of it: Can't do the time, don't do the crime. In reality, we would be better served interrogating the system itself and why it's so hard to get through or stay out of, as well as the societal structures and biases that make it possible or easier for certain communities to fall into the system than others."

NAACP President of the Spokane chapter James Wilburn will also be a guest speaker at the conference. Wilburn, who is the Spokane School District achievement gap specialist, brings over 20 years of work with the NAACP, and he will be speaking about the achievement gap issue.

Vaughn brought the idea to Black Student Union President Satori



Butler, who jumped on board immediately.

"I thought it was an amazing idea," Butler said. "A lot of African-Americans aren't aware about a lot of the stuff we will be learning. It will be a perfect opportunity for us all to learn what is oppressing us."

She anticipates the information at the conference will bring both communities on the campus together and focus on the ideas of what is next for the students at EWU. "My hope is that the sum-

mit will bridge the gap between both communities and bring us together to achieve something better. I hope it makes people angry to want to start making changes," Butler said.

Webster echoes Butler's hope that the presence of these organizations will have students getting involved now.

"Our presence at the summit is about empowerment, primarily because policy reforms take a while to measure," Webster said. "I'm going

to be there to urge students to get involved now in what may influence your community later."

The Black-Brown Conference will start May 17 at 9 a.m. in the PUB MPR. The brunch on May 18 will be at noon.

Alumnus develops passion while at EWU

Graduate creates 'audible buffet' for audience through music

By Rebekah Frank
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EWU alumnus Randy Robinson shares his life with people through a microphone every time he produces a song.

Robbinson, who graduated from EWU with a degree in communications, came to Eastern on a partial football scholarship. Robinson was partying, skipping class and wasting time, and after his freshman year he quit football. Robinson said he was going about 100 miles per hour in the wrong direction.

"I remember sitting with a counselor my freshman year and her asking me if I wanted to graduate from college because I was actually close to failing out. I made up my mind that I would major in communications," said Robinson.

During his time at EWU, one of his friends invited him to come to the recording studio on campus. They went in and signed up to use it even though they had no idea what they were doing.

"We would get everything set up and after a half hour or so we would hit 'record.' Nothing would happen, then we would spend another 15 minutes trying to figure out what was wrong, only to find out the microphone wasn't plugged in," said Robinson.

During that time of learning in the studio, Robinson found

a passion for making music, and used it as a release, and a way to vent. He discovered a desire to open up and share his feelings and beliefs through beats and lyrics. He never guessed that in the not-so-distant future people would be able to relate to his work and enjoy his sound.

Seattle engineer, producer and rapper Skyler Allen said, "[Robbinson] is a rare talent. He has a unique ability to string together series of ideas that create complex layers of meaning, resulting in an audible buffet for the audience. Not only does he have this gift with words, but he then delivers these verbal onions with a cool voice and poetic delivery over easy to listen to beats that he's also cooked up. His music is his muse and he treats her like royalty. We, as listeners, get to reap the benefits."

After a while of playing in the studio, Robinson began to figure out how to make everything work and was making beats to occupy his free time. Now, Robinson said it is a lot easier to make music when he is work-

ing with people who have a little more experience.

"When I was younger, I would just set the mic up and record the song when I was ready. That was always fun, but it does take a lot of stress off yourself when you can be in the studio with engineers that you trust and know what they're doing," said Robinson.

Seattle-based engineer, music producer and artist Carl Roe said it is easy to work with Robinson as well.

"[Robbinson] is the most down-to-earth person I have ever worked with. He definitely is one of the more particular artists I work with that is very in-tune with the sound he wants. He takes care in the creation of his songs which, for me, exist as refreshing stories rather than just simple pop music. When you're doing the type of music [Robbinson] is doing, you're putting your soul out there. His talent claims it's place in a very vulnerable space in this arena," said Roe.

Robbinson said the editing part of producing songs is more like homework or a day job and

he has yet to master that. However, the part he likes the most is just being in the studio working on beats and waiting for lyrics to drop out of the sky.

"I usually start by creating a simple melody on the keyboard or finding a sample that I can loop. Then I will start adding other sounds and instruments. Somewhere during this process, I am usually inspired to start writing lyrics.

I enjoy this very much, because I feel like it really causes a connection between the sound and the feel of the song," said Robinson.

Robbinson has done some freestyling at EWU and has performed at coffee shops and pubs. He is currently working on a new project called "The Grass is Always Yellowier," which he hopes to complete by this summer. It will feature some live instrumentation from some Seattle-based musicians and the talent of producer Elan Wright.

Robbinson said he enjoys putting his own beliefs and individual feelings into his music. He does not want to persuade someone to listen, but wants them to relate to what he is saying.

Robbinson said he wants people to see his feelings through his words. He wants them to know what he is thinking, what he is going through and maybe be able to relate.

"When people hear my music, I want them to just recognize my voice as its own. I want my music to encourage them to be their self. My life has shown me that, like everyone else, we were all made to be our own individual. We each have something to share with the world, so with me continuing to share my voice, it is a way for me to share myself with people. I think doing that will encourage my friends and family to be great and chase after their own individual dreams in life," said Robinson.

While Robinson writes his songs for his family and other people, he also writes for himself. His songs are like his diary.

"His music is truly an exploration of self, his pen speaks from the heart, it bleeds on his sleeve. His songs are a series of snapshots of his mind. Not only what he thinks but also how he thinks," said Allen.

You can listen to Randy's most recent album at <http://randyrobbins.bandcamp.com>

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Chinese language course option returns to Eastern

By Kailee Dunn
STAFF WRITER
dunn.kailee@gmail.com

Starting fall quarter, EWU’s modern language program will offer Chinese 101 to 103.

Course instructor Chiu-Hsin Lin said the classes will focus on speaking and listening to Chinese.

“I would like to focus on communication, where the students can have small talk. So, that’s the goal for Chinese 101. And of course, they will learn reading and writing,” Lin said

In Chinese 101, Lin said students will learn to speak about basic topics, like themselves, family, meeting with friends and different hobbies. Lin said the courses will also consist of Chinese-speaking presenters, as well as a history lesson in Chinese characters.

“A lot of people want to learn Chinese because of the Chinese characters. Each character has a story. For example, the sun and the moon,” Lin said.

This sequence of classes was offered in 2008 but was cut after the budget was reduced, according to Florian Preisig. EWU’s Modern Languages and Literatures department chair. Today, the class is still unable to be financially funded by the administration.

“The money used to fund this class is entirely out of pocket,” said Preisig.

He said the modern language department has done a great job to fundraise the money. Also, he promises students who sign up for

Chinese 101 will be able to finish the entire sequence to Chinese 103. Department of modern languages and literatures English language institute director, Neil Heyen, said he took the course when it was offered seven years ago. His favorite part of the class was learning about the culture and listening to the Chinese musicians Lin would invite to class.

“China has one of the oldest cultures in the world, so certainly its people are very interesting,” said Heyen.

Heyen also encourages students to take the course because of China’s growing global power.

“If you think globally, China is becoming one of the most important countries in the world in terms of business and other things. From that perspective, it’s an important language for America,” said Heyen.

Lin, who lived in Taiwan for some time, agrees learning Chinese will only help students in the future.

“China is getting power economically and regionally. Eventually, we will have more contact [with China],” said Lin.

Lin’s objective now is to help rebuild the Chinese language program and community.

“[The class] is a great opportunity for those students to learn Chinese,” Lin said. “Right now, Eastern only offers Japanese as the only Asian language. I think by adding Chinese, it’s adding diversity.”



Photo by Sam Sargeant

Professor Chiu-Hsin Lin is preparing for the new Chinese 101 class, which will be offered next fall.

Upcoming Women’s and Gender studies events:

On May 7, Margaret Behan, one of 13 indigenous grandmothers who travel the world praying for peace and healing, will be speaking in Tawanka room 215 from noon to 2 p.m.

On May 8, the “Are Corporations People?” teach-in is from noon to 1 p.m. in the PUB MPR.

Women’s studies center hosts interactive workshops on campus

By Rebekah Frank
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During this past winter quarter, many students, faculty members and community members filled the EWU Women’s Studies Center to learn how to work together toward a common goal.

The women’s studies center recently added an “Activist in Residence” workshop.

EWU Women’s and Gender Studies professor Elizabeth Kissling said the department director Sally Winkle had the idea of doing these workshops. The workshops would consist of interactive discussions of how people can be active in their community at any level.

Kissling said Winkle went to the National Women’s Studies Conference and heard about a similar program taking place at the University of Oklahoma and decided to try it at EWU. The members of the wom-

en’s studies center were excited about the idea.

The idea of these workshops is to bring an activist in the community to hold workshops that enlighten attendees about community involvement.

“Having somebody come to campus and not necessarily teach a class for students, but have them learn about ways they can be more engaged in the community, no matter what type of engagement they’re interested in,” said Kissling.

The women’s studies center brought in Liz Moore, who is the director of the Peace and Justice Action League of Spokane. Kissling said she likes the league because they focus on broad issues and involvement, instead of limiting themselves to specific ones, such as focusing on equality for everyone instead of one specific demographic.

“They were really broad things that were applicable

to any kind of community engagement or activism,” said Kissling.

EWU manager of the women’s studies center Carol Vines said they have had a great turnout to these workshops. More than 50 people showed up, ranging from students to faculty to community members.

Vines also said many professors offered extra credit to their students if they came to the workshops. Those attendees who came to all four received a certificate at the end.

“One student said that she took it for the extra credit, but she got so much more out of it than she ever thought she would. ... She really felt like it was very worthwhile,” said Vines.

The discussion topics for these workshops included motivating people to act, building alliances across differences, campaigns that initiate change and standing up for nonviolence.

Vines said some of the workshops were a little in-

teractive. Moore would ask questions and invite people to make their decisions by choosing a side of the room. After everyone who wanted to had moved, she asked for volunteers to explain their choices.

“She had people choose what violence was and what nonviolence was, and people were very challenged by that. ... If you watch violence happen and you do nothing, are you being nonviolent or are you being violent by being a passive bystander? I think it was very self-insightful for people, to make that choice and not just sit there, but to have to go to a side of the room and say, ‘This is where I stand,’” said Vines.

Vines said she really enjoyed the workshops and the discussions they had. Everyone who came was invited to fill out a survey, and the only negative comment was that the room was too small.

“It is something that students really seem to want, is to be involved in their communities,” said Kissling.

GRADUATION: CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“I want to encourage people to support. You don’t have to be part of the LGBT community to feel elements of common struggle.”

Katie Schoel, Lavender graduate and event coordinator for the EWU Pride Club,

appreciates the ceremony for its intimate quality.

“We’re being recognized for who we are, rather than just our student ID numbers. I guess for me it’s important to go not just for myself but to support the people in our community,” she said.

Williams explained that for some graduates this is the first time their sexual-

ity or gender identity is acknowledged in a positive context. “Sometimes you have high school students who are homeless because they were kicked out their house for being gay, ... I think it’s important for people to be celebrated for who they are, and for some, this is the first time that happens. I’m happy to be a part of that.”

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‘The Bachelor’ creates an ugly reality for viewers

Editor’s Note: This column contains language that might offend.

By Alla Drokina
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
easterner.opinion@gmail.com

Among the polished dresses, highlighted hair, half-empty champagne glasses and roses, a hunched over girl in the corner sobs because “everyone is so catty here.”

What sounds like a terrible flashback to high school prom is actually a snippet of what takes place on “The Bachelor.”

Callie Spencer, adjunct instructor in the physical education, health and recreation department at EWU, presented a lecture on April 29, titled, “Wow, that Bitch is Crazy: Gendered Responses to ‘The Bachelor.’”

She covered the way gender stereotypes are presented in “The Bachelor” and inspired me to rethink the way I look at media.

“Remember that culture writes women just as women write culture. There is a reciprocal relationship,” Spencer said. “So, the question follows: If the messages sent by reality TV are that women are incompetent, stupid, gold-digging bitches, what are women viewers doing with those messages?”



Drokina

“The Bachelor” seems like a universal guilty pleasure. It’s a typical love-hate relationship. There is almost a similar amount of emotion evoked from the viewer as is displayed on the show and, believe me, that’s a lot.

Sophisticated and intelligent women might find themselves hurling things at their screen and getting frustrated over the brattiest girl’s antics on the show. It’s like an emotional tunnel that sucks you in and spits you out. It’s a fantasy tale, of sorts, for grown women.

Jobs that wouldn’t be rendered authentic in real life, all of a sudden, become real careers on the show. What it lacks in real diversity, it makes up for (not really) in various odd jobs. The girls list themselves as dabbling in all sorts of practices. In the land of “The Bachelor,” a professional dreamer, makeup enthusiast, free spirit and bobby-pin expert are all viable career options.

What begins as a series of challenges to win over the man escalates into fighting to captivate his attention and later his heart. Because we all know that the test of any healthy relationship is whether the other person can bungee jump off a bridge.

Also, if you have to wear a wedding dress on the first night you meet the dude to do the trick, the producers of “The Bachelor” nod and say, “By all means.”

What’s really interesting, though, are the responses the show draws from women watching, including the livid reactions to a girl on the show who forgos relationships with her fellow

contestants to focus on her object of affection.

Just check the comment section on Hulu.com after every episode. Phrases like “Wow, she’s such an airhead” and “What a slut” offer a small sampling of what viewers think about these women on television.

“The Bachelor” caters to a certain something in people. The question is why is it so appealing to people who won’t dare admit they tune in every Monday night.

We forget the women in these shows are caged in one home with no access to the outside world, left only to talk to each other. This is probably enough to drive even the classiest woman, who prides herself on proprietary, ballistic.

So, if the show is somewhat staged like an arena and the women are the gladiators fighting for the prize, are we, the viewers, the real animals here? We are tearing the women apart. Does sitting in the comfort of our kitty-pat-termed pj’s and lack of accountability deem it more OK? Or does the luminescent screen of the television lure us into forgetting that these are real people?

Do you ever watch “Hoarders” and instantly feel like you’ve got it all together? That the mess you have in your room is just a pile of laundry and the problems you’ve got — I mean, what problems? If you do find yourself doing that, in a way, you just raised your self-esteem in light of another’s misfortune. I’ve done it. You may have done it. I’m not proud of it.

It’s the same with “The Bachelor.” We see these “crazy” women on TV and subconsciously think that we’re kind of OK, maybe even fantastic. It caters to a twisted part inside of us, and we hate to admit it.

It kind of goes back to what we were taught in elementary school: Do not lift yourself up at the expense of others. If we feel good about ourselves when we compare ourselves to others, who is really winning here? To me, it sounds like a lose-lose situation.

The negativity encourages us to tear other women down instead of empowering them. It’s taking kind-hearted viewers and transforming them into bullies. Instead of being part of the same team, it cultivates an us vs. them mentality.

We are doing nothing to discourage the stereotypical way these women are portrayed. Instead, we are letting the producers spoon-feed us and the rest of America more stereotypes about women. Shows like this are called escapism, and I can see why. They make you feel like you’re relaxing and turning your mind off when watching an episode. But who’s really escaping from the possibly damaging consequences that can follow from these stereotypes?

I’m not suggesting that we completely abolish these shows, but we can always watch them with a more critical lens and ask ourselves the important questions.



Question for next week:

“Which building on campus most needs renovations?”

Easterner Asks

“What impact do you think the ASEWU has on campus? Do you think it’s important to vote in the elections?”



“I think they try to be involved and it’s great that they try, but it’s almost forced. I think there could be a different way to be more influential. I think it’s very important to vote in the elections.”

Elizabeth Hermann



“I know what [ASEWU] is and what they do, but I don’t know who to talk to or where it’s at. I would like to see [ASEWU] more on campus. It’s important to vote, but if you don’t you can’t be upset about how it turns out.”

Kimber McLaughlin



“I think they have an impact in student activities and in the quarters to semesters debate. Voting is always important — everyone has a complaint, but no one wants to do anything about [it].”

Sam Rogers



“I don’t know anything about [ASEWU], but I see their logo everywhere. Voting is good because student government is a great thing and offers great leadership skills.”

Moriah Biggs

Letters to the Editor

Minorities

Dear Editor,
I am writing in response to the article “EWU Marginalizes Minorities.”

Although I applaud the author’s effort of over-dramatizing an act that generally went unnoticed (I suspect only due to a lack of credulity rather than suppression), I am irritated by the irresponsible way in which the article was written. Rather than genuinely address the bold and very serious accusation of racism that was made by several posters, the writer decided to offer her own experience of “racism,” which was, by most accounts, only a mere triviality involving a conversation about a changed hairstyle having nothing to do with race. I have news for you my fellow classmate, the conversation about getting hair extensions sounded as if the cause was mere curiosity and not a race-based inquiry. For you to imply such an act is racist dishonors people around

the planet who are genuinely suffering from racism. Did you reflect while writing this, that you are a woman of color, writing for a free press, for a university paper that is primarily run by well-educated women? That such a thing is unheard of in most parts of the world? No. Instead you focus your time on molding a banal classroom interaction into a “racist incident.” The suffering of those around the planet who are actually being destroyed by racist ideology demand nothing short of an apology for your blatant mockery of their cause, and furthermore you owe an apology to the EWU community of staff and students who were made to suffer a baseless (both you and the publisher of the poster provide no evidence) and cruel charge. Perhaps you can rework this article into a speech, which you can then easily present at one of the many multicultural or student outreach events held on campus.

James Martin

Snooze it or Lose it

Dear Editor,
Have you felt sluggish or in need of a nap while on campus? Well we have a solution for you! According to the University Health Center, “on average, most college students get six to 6.9 hours of sleep per night,” while the recommended average is eight hours per night. As a result, students are left to drag their feet to class, fall asleep during lectures, and consume dangerous amounts of caffeine.

Due to an increase in commuters, off-campus students and a lack of adaptation for students’ needs, we believe change must happen to meet student and faculty standards. Possible solutions to this problem are adding faculty to create more concise schedules and the addition of costly couches, which could potentially overcrowd the PUB. After much consideration and discussion, we came to the conclusion that a napping lounge on campus would be

beneficial to the health and wellness of students and faculty and the best possible solution for EWU.

The benefits to this new and innovative napping lounge include: higher student and faculty performance increase in overall morale and greater public appeal. Although the new napping lounge could potentially be expensive at first, charging for the services would offset this cost as well as provide a valuable resource for students. While an attendant would be needed to ensure safe use of the facility, work study students could benefit from this. As you can see the positives of adding a napping lounge far outweigh the negatives.

We encourage our student government to form an alliance with other resources and organizations on campus, to promote further research and funding for this proposal.

Kaley S. Fields, Lauren E. Riley, Jenny Khuong, Michael I. Viehouser, Porche S. Evans

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR
Elsa Schmitz
OPINION EDITOR
easterner.opinion@gmail.com

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-Letters should be 300 words or less and typed, or legibly handwritten.
-Include your full name, signature, telephone number and email address for verification.
-We reserve the right not to publish letters; furthermore, all letters are subject to editing.
-Letters must be received no later than Monday at 10 a.m. in order to be considered for publication the following Wednesday.
-If your letter is in response to a specific article, please list the title and date of the article.

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Technology advancement:
Nick Sweeney: 683 Giang Bui: 483

POLICE BEAT

By Amye Ellsworth
MANAGING EDITOR
easterner.me@gmail.com

**May 2
2:37 a.m.**
Intoxicated student
A female student in Brewster Hall was transported to Sacred Heart Hospital for alcohol poisoning.

**May 3
10:56 a.m.**
Malicious mischief
Greek letters were spray painted in black paint on the sides of Monroe Hall and Tawanka. Police are currently reviewing video camera footage for more information.

**April 28
2:40 p.m.**
Disorderly conduct
An intoxicated non-traditional student entered Showalter Hall room 109 during a class session and started shaking people's hands. He was asked to leave, and he complied.

**April 30
12:30 a.m.**
Domestic violence
University police assisted Cheney Police in domestic dispute that began on Ninth Street. The fight was verbal only.

3:36 p.m.
Pursuit
University police assisted Cheney Police in pursuing a Cheney High School student that had violated his probation and was out on warrant. The suspect got away, as police were unable to secure a perimeter in time.

10:35 p.m.
Injured student
A student was treated in the PUB for a shoulder injury that was obtained while longboarding down the grass hill next to the Computer Engineering Building.

**May 1
2:20 a.m.**
Unconscious student
A male student on the eighth floor of Dressler Hall was highly intoxicated and unconscious. He was turned over to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Tip of the week:
With the nice weather, police urge students to take extra caution and to pay careful attention while driving and engaging in outdoor activities.



Illustration by Elsa Schmitz
An intoxicated non-traditional student entered a room during a class session and started shaking people's hands.


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Junior quarterback Vernon Adams gets tackled after a play during the Red-White game on April 26. Photo by Sam Sargeant

Athletes race toward end goal

Former players strive toward NFL draft, holding professional aspirations, dreams

By Sam Deal
CONTRIBUTING WRITER
easterner.sports@gmail.com

Dec. 21, 2013 marked the end of several EWU football players' collegiate careers and kicked off what would be a grueling, four-month-long process culminating on May 8 with the NFL draft.

Staying focused, working hard and enjoying the moment are a necessity for these athletes as they grind through daily workouts and evaluations all while facing the uncertainty that is earning a spot on a professional roster.

"It's such a long process. Teams had scouts and you don't know what they wrote down, who liked you, who didn't, so you end up just sitting here for weeks at a time not knowing anything. These last couple weeks have been rough, but I just keep telling myself: 'Keep working until the draft, keep working until the draft,'" said former Eagle and second team All-Conference wide receiver Ashton Clark.

Clark is just one of the athletes from Eastern who is facing the tough task of not only moving into professional football, but doing so as a player from a Football Championship Subdivision, as opposed to the Football Bowl Subdivision. Players from the Championship Subdivision make up less than 2 percent of all NFL players.

2013 second team All-Big Sky Conference guard Steven Forgette elaborated on the difficulties of being evaluated coming out of an FCS school.

"We've already fought so hard at the FCS level to be respected, but ultimately you kind of get slapped in the face a little during the [draft] process; all that gets thrown around is the level of talent that we've faced," said Forgette. "You just keep grinding because you know what the ultimate prize would be."

The ultimate prize of playing professional football means months of struggle and uncertainty, but as long as the last few months have been for these young men, each have found different ways to stay focused on working towards achieving a lifelong goal.

"Once I look at my son, it's all worth it," said Anthony Larry, a starting defensive end, who missed the 2012 season due to academics. "After my 2012 year I was ready to throw it all away, but moving back home my son would have followed the same steps I took, I just want to show him there is a different way."

Larry, who moved to Seattle after the season ended to prepare for the draft, has had multiple private workouts with NFL teams. He said he is happy to play anywhere professionally, whether it is in the NFL or the Canadian Football League, in order to provide the best life for his son.

Sources of motivation can be found within each player, but all the hard work and dedication has created an in-

credible amount of pressure on each of these athletes.

Enjoying the process sometimes gets lost in all the pressure, but cherishing the moments keep spirits high.

"Yeah I definitely enjoy it, it's an opportunity, and not everybody gets to go to this stuff. If everything were to end now, looking back at least I've had the opportunity to go prove myself," said Clark.

Two-time All-American defensive back TJ Lee III looks at the last four months from a very different perspective, cherishing his moments at Eastern while staying grounded and focused when discussing his athletic potential.

"Eastern Washington is the best thing that has ever happened to me, I can't thank Eastern Washington enough," said Lee. "I have to stay away from all the talk because it really doesn't mean anything until you get a check."

On May 10, the 2014 NFL draft will come to an end and professional teams will begin bringing in players who went undrafted. Wherever EWU's former top athletes end up, they will be prepared and happy to prove they have the ability to do whatever it takes to achieve their goals.

"I don't know what is going to happen. I just want the opportunity. Even if I don't get drafted, I just want the opportunity," said Larry. "I never thought I'd be in this situation. God blessed me. The plan is just to give my son a better life than I had."

"Once I look at my son, it's all worth it."

Anthony Larry

BIG SKY: CONTINUED FROM FRONT

During the 2010 season, Eastern had nine wins by an average of 6.2 points of each game. In nine of those games, Eastern either trailed or tied other teams in the fourth quarter for six of those games. In one of the games, they trailed in the third quarter, and in two games they were scoreless in the fourth quarter. Seven of the Eagles'

games were also decided by seven points or less.

Baldwin also recalled how special his team was that season. "In terms of that team's resiliency and being able to just find ways to win, that's what I'll always remember about that group," Baldwin said. "[When] you find a way to win a national title, it takes a lot. But the way we did it took a lot in a lot of different games to get that done."

Since Eastern won the

title, the team has advanced to the FCS semifinals three of the past four seasons. The Eagles have also earned a 42-13 record since winning the championship, followed by a 27-5 record against the Big Sky Conference.

According to Baldwin, getting bestowed with the No. 5 moment on the Big Sky list is motivating. "Yeah, we're hungry for more, but I also appreciate [this] very much," Baldwin said. "We're just pushing to take it a little

bit further in the years to come, but again we're going to enjoy all the small victories along the way, too."

Edwards believes that the team does not need any more incentives in order to work harder. "I don't think our guys need extra motivation," said Edwards. "Each day our guys do a good job of focusing and try to grind to be one of the best in the conference and also being the best in the nation. So we take our steps day by day."

Racism persists, NBA resists

Clippers owner Donald Sterling fined and given lifetime ban for racist remarks from recording

By Amye Ellsworth
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Throughout the recent Donald Sterling fiasco, one notion is certain: it is not about the Clippers, it is not about the playoffs and it is not about basketball.

Rather, it is an issue of human rights and the fact that no one should be exempt from treating people with the level of respect we all deserve.

When Sterling, owner of the Los Angeles Clippers, made racist and inflammatory comments to his girlfriend about how he viewed his players, the NBA community united in its reaction.



Ellsworth

LeBron James said the NBA had "no room" for Sterling, and basketball legends Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson agreed, with Johnson saying on an ESPN broadcast, "We all play with different races of people when you're in sports. That's what makes sports so beautiful."

Even President Barack Obama, who was away in Malaysia at the time of his comments, responded to the remarks, calling them "ignorant" and "incredibly offensive racist statements," according to ESPN.

But, what exactly had Sterling said in order to cause such passionate reactions from these basketball greats and the president?

In a recorded message, obtained by infamous paparazzi media outlet TMZ, Sterling reportedly told his girlfriend how to regulate her contact with African-Americans.

Her behaviors could include sleeping with African-American men, just as long as she refrained from bringing them to basketball games and including them in her Instagram photos. He specifically singled out Johnson.

Unsurprisingly, as hatred of this depth and magnitude doesn't just breed overnight, these are not Sterling's first acts of horrific discrimination.

In past court cases, former Clipper's players reported complaining about the married Sterling's habit of bringing women into the locker room to watch the athletes showering after games, while encouraging the women to "look at those beautiful black bodies."

Sterling's warped mindset essentially places him as an owner but not just because he owns the Clippers. His mindset is that of a 19th century slave owner.

Also recorded on the alleged tape was Sterling's explanation for the black men on his team. According to CNN, Sterling said, "I support them and give them food, and clothes, and cars, and houses."

Perhaps the worst part of Sterling is that he doesn't view his actions as discriminatory in any way. But, did we really expect that he would?

When his girlfriend questions him on his behavior, calling it racist, CNN reports him as responding with, "There's no racism here. If you don't want to be walking into a basketball game with a certain person, is that racism?"

If that "certain person" is an entire demographic of people hated simply for the color of their skin, then yes, Mr. Sterling, that is, by very definition, racism.

However, we can't respond to Sterling's hatred with more hate; rather, we should work to set better standards for our own degrees of love and compassion.

The Clippers chose silent protest, simply yet profoundly turning their warm-ups inside out to hide the logo. The Miami Heat followed suit in their next game, and if NBA commissioner Adam Silver had not chosen to take action against Sterling, the Warriors planned to walk out on their playoff game against the Clippers.

James was right when he said the NBA has no room for this level of hatred, but I would extend his comments even further. The world should have no room for this level of hatred.

How do you feel about the Donald Sterling situation?

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Behind the beak

Eastern’s mascot wears a mask of anonymity to keep mystery, magic alive

By Ashlee Coffey
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During sophomore year, I went into the track locker room after a men’s basketball game to get my jacket. As soon as I opened the door, one of the cheerleaders shoved someone — who I could only assume to be our beloved mascot — into the shower area.

We all know Swoop. He is the symbol of our university. He is the guy who gets the faithful fans pumped up and even more excited about whatever game he is at, even if it is 10 degrees outside. That eagle is also the same person who takes a break from us college students to entertain the mass of children trailing behind and cheering with the mascot.

We know the suit, but what we do not know is the person who plays that role. His identity, the “man behind the beak,” is almost never revealed. With how identifiable Swoop is, many would think the person putting on the suit would want some recognition for their stunts, acrobatics and dancing abilities.

After speaking with a young man who served our community at Eastern from 2010 until 2013, where he was the mascot for only two football games, it became more and more clear why the “true” identity of Swoop is kept top secret.

When we are young, we are intrigued by the notion of Santa Claus — not only because it is someone who brings presents to the house but also because we never actually know he does not exist until later on when we are older.

Once we find out that Santa is no more than an uncle or a grandpa or a family friend, we lose interest. We no longer wait for Santa to show up with presents. We do not try to stay awake to hear reindeer hooves on the roof.

A former Swoop had this to say: “At that moment, people think and act differently around him. It still may be in a posi-

tive fun way, but the mystery and magic piece is missing. People aren’t nearly as free in their interactions once the character becomes a real person. They clam up.”

The same concept can be applied to Swoop: Not knowing who he is sparks the natural interest a lot of humans have in mystery. We, as fans, wait for him at basketball games. We wait for him and approach him like we would one of our friends or sometimes family members. Fans high five him, hug him, dance with him, all without ever knowing who he is.

Madison Hilpert, a former cheerleader at Eastern, said Eastern likes the mystery surrounding Swoop’s true identity. “I think that keeping his identity a secret adds mystery and fun for everyone. Everyone asks us who Swoop is. [It] is funny to hear who they think it might be. I think it also gives the mascot the opportunity to get into character and not be nervous. Swoop is known for being a great dancer. I can honestly say he is constantly dancing, even when he is out of the costume,” she said.

While knowing who the person is “behind the beak” will feed and satisfy the curiosity humans tend to carry, it would strip away the magic and “image” Swoop has. Swoop would no longer be Swoop. Instead of saying Swoop is a great dancer or is good at the things he is supposed to do as a mascot, we would be saying the name of the person is good at those things. Swoop’s name would be taken out of it.

Let the mystery be just that. Let the magic live on, and let Swoop be Swoop.



The mystery behind Swoop allows students to be more relaxed around the mascot.
Photo by Sam Sargeant

Track and Field travels to and succeeds in Oregon

Several Eagles placed first in their events

By Elohino Theodore
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EWU track and field competed in Corvallis and Monmouth, Oregon, on May 1-2 which the Eagles left with several seasonal-best records.

“We did very well,” men’s head coach Stan Kerr said. “We had a number of individual and lifetime bests.”

Cross-country coach Chris Zeller also thought the Eagles completed another solid performance. “Overall I think it was a really good meet for us,” Zeller said. “A lot of folks that had already qualified for the Big Sky Conference improved their marks.”

The Eagles started competition in the hammer throw on May 1 in Monmouth, Oregon. Junior thrower Jordan Arakawa won with a toss of 210-4. Senior thrower Zach Nielson came in fifth place with a toss of 197-6. Senior thrower Shaun Lemafa placed ninth with a throwing distance of 171-9, which was a seasonal best for him.

For the women’s hammer throw, junior thrower Olivia Midles finished in first place with a distance of 189-2. Sophomore thrower Kelsie Forcier had a toss of 181-0, good enough for second place. Junior thrower Emma Murillo came in third place while throwing a distance of 179-0. Murillo also had a personal record of 159-11 in the discus event, on May 2, to come in second place.

In the women’s 3,000-meter steeplechase, junior distance runner Catie Arrigoni finished with a time of 10:20.75 to place second. Freshman Paula Gil-Echevarria had



Photo courtesy of EWU Athletics

Eastern competed for the first time in Corvallis and Monmouth, Oregon, but they plan to return.

a time of 10:29.03 to place third. Both times were personal bests for each athlete.

Zeller wants his distance runners to improve on certain techniques as the Big Sky Championships are edging closer. “The one thing they could improve on is just like that last part of the race,” Zeller said. “We’re really good at pacing right now and running pretty even. But we need to find that extra gear in that finishing kick in the race.”

Senior hurdler Steven Warner earned first place in the 110-meter hurdle race with a time of 14.54. Sophomore distance runner Sarah Reiter had a personal best time of 16:49.63 in the 5,000-meter race, good enough for fourth place. In the same race, junior distance runner Berenice Penalzoa came in 10th place with a time of 17:27.66.

In the shot put events, senior Jon Buchanan came in fourth place with a throwing distance of 55-4 3/4. Freshman Aaron Cunningham finished in eighth place with a seasonal-best throw of 51-2 3/4. In the women’s shot put, sophomore Morgan Romey placed third and had a toss of 46-11 3/4.

In the women’s pole vault competition, freshman Courtney Bray cleared a height of 12-11 1/2. This was good enough for second place. Freshman Anandae Clark came in fourth place in pole vaulting with a mark of 12-1 1/2. Freshman Erin Clark finished with

a height of 11-7 3/4, good for fifth place.

In the 400-meter race, junior sprinter Brad Michael ran a time of 48.24 to place third. For the women’s 400-meter race, senior sprinter Angélica Rodríguez finished with a time of 57.06 to come in second place. Freshman sprinter Brooke Monson placed fourth with a time of 57.54.

According to Kerr, the coaching staff overall is having all athletes look ahead at the conference championships. “I think in any event we start looking at what their conference goals are,” Kerr said. “Physically they’re prepared, all the event groups are going to start a tapering process now.”

This tapering process involves the athletes cutting back the workouts they do in practice, but they raise up the intensity level.

In the women’s 200-meter event, senior sprinter Whitney Leavitt finished with a seasonal best of 25.00 to earn fourth place. In the men’s 200-meter race, freshman sprinter Austin Upmeyer ran a time of 22.25.

The women’s 4x100 relay team finished with a time of 47.44 to come in second place. Nielson came in fourth place in the discus event with a throw of 160-7. Cunningham and freshman Evan Banchero each had personal-best throws. Cunningham had a throwing distance of 156-10, and Banchero had a 156-4 toss.

Sophomore Brooklyn Bellomy cleared a height of 5-3 in the high jump event to tie a personal best.

This was the first time Eastern track and field has competed at the high performance meet in Oregon and Kerr states that it will not be the last time. “We do plan to go back to this meet next year,” Kerr said. “We felt as a coaching staff it’s a very well run meet, very great level of competition, we will repeat with this meet back on our schedule next year.”

The Eagles will compete in Moscow, Idaho, at the Vandal Jamboree on May 9.

New cheer squad selected for 2014-2015 athletic season

By Ashlee Coffey
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After a three day tryout series, Eastern has selected a new cheer squad for the 2014-2015 school year.

Though the full and finalized names of members have not been released at press time, the head coach Hailey Hansen said, “We took four new girls, one freshman from Mead, [Washington],

Nicky Senn. We took two transfer students from [University of Montana]. The final new girl we took is Ashley Rampon, she cheered for us in 2012, but was injured and couldn’t finish the season.”

Tryouts consisted of a fitness test, learning new cheers and dance routines, and a personal interview between the potential new athlete and the coach.

“We had a lot of talent this year, which made watching the

“I know that the group of women I selected will have a positive impact on EWU this coming year.”

—Hailey Hansen
Head Cheer Coach

girls very fun, but made the judging very difficult,” Hansen said. “I know that the group of women I selected will have a positive impact on EWU this coming year.”

Alex Dinwoodie was one of

the newest members selected and a University of Montana transfer.

“My tryout experience was amazing. The girls that had already been on the team really made the whole experience way less stressful. The material was taught super well and the guys we stunted with were very encouraging,” Dinwoodie said. “I could not be more thrilled to be chosen as an Eastern cheerleader.”

Kristen Allen, another new member, said, “I am so excited

and blessed to be a new member of the Eastern cheer squad. Tryouts were a wonderful experience. I felt so welcomed and comfortable with all of the returning cheerleaders. I am looking forward to the best season with my new family and memories to come.”

Practice will start sometime next week for all of the members on the cheer squad.

“I can’t wait to begin practice next week,” Hansen said.